



BOROUGH OF DARWEN

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

including the Annual Report of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1971



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of the
Medical Officer of Health.*

*Public Health Dept.
Darwen*

B O R O U G H O F D A R W E N

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year

1971

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH, HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1971 - 1972

COUNCILLOR DR. H.W. LEES, MAYOR

CHAIRMAN

ALDERMAN MISS C. MARSDEN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COUNCILLOR A. JEBB

ALD. A. BARNES

ALD. P.S. HUNT

ALD. C.W. JONES, J.P.

ALD. A. PRESTON

ALD. E. YATES

COUNC. W.F. BIRCH

COUNC. P.H.M.W. CLEAR

COUNC. N. DAVIES

COUNC. MRS. J. GOULDSBROUGH

COUNC. C.R. GRILLS

COUNC. R.J. KENYON

COUNC. W. LISHMAN

COUNC. J.M. LONGWORTH

COUNC. W.P. McALLISTER

COUNC. J. McGLYNN

COUNC. T.L. SOUTHWORTH

COUNC. P. SHORROCK

COUNC. J. SWANTON

COUNC. C. TALBOT

COUNC. H. TORKINGTON

COUNC. T. HARDMAN

JOHN CHADWICK FIELDING, LL.B.,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	P.M. Sammon M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Divisional Medical Officer, Lancashire County Council	
Deputy Medical Officer of Health	Sheila M. Hutchinson,
Senior Assistant Divisional	L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.,
Medical Officer, Lancashire County Council	L.R.F.P. & S., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector	H. Ramsbottom, M.A.P.H.I.,
	C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods.
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector	P.H. Watson, M.A.P.H.I.,
	C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods.
District Public Health Inspectors	T. Gregson M.A.P.H.I.,
	C.P.H.I.E.B., Dip. Insp. Meat and Other Foods. Dip. Air Pollution Control.
	B. Taylor, Dip. P.H.I.E.B.
Technical Assistant	F. Townley.
Student Public Health Inspector	P.H. Banks (commenced 2nd August, 1971)
Clerical Staff	Miss. M.A. Hoyle. Miss. G. Bradshaw.
Rodent Operator	H. Brady
Municipal Hostel, Warden	R.W. Kilpatrick.
Matron	Mrs. P. Kilpatrick.
Mortuary Attendant	A. Bowcock.

CLINICS and TREATMENT CENTRES

NAME OF CLINIC	SITUATION	DAY AND TIME	BY WHOM PROVIDED
Child Welfare & Diphtheria Immunisation, etc	Civic Health Centre	Monday 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council
	St. Chad's Clinic	Wednesday 10 a.m.	
	Spring Vale Clinic	Tuesday 2 p.m.	
Ante-Natal	Civic Health Centre	Friday (Specialist) 9 a.m.	Lancashire County Council
Ante-Natal Relaxation	Civic Health Centre	Wednesday 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council
Maternity & Child Welfare Dental and School Dental	Civic Health Centre	Tuesday to Friday 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday evening	Lancashire County Council
School Clinic	Civic Health Centre	Minor Ailments Friday a.m.	Lancashire County Council
Ophthalmic	Civic Health Centre	Tuesday a.m. (by appointment)	Lancashire County Council
Cytology	Civic Health Centre	Tuesday Fortnightly 9.30 a.m. (by appointment)	Lancashire County Council
Ear, Nose and Throat	Civic Health Centre	Tuesday p.m. (by appointment)	Lancashire County Council
Orthopaedic	Civic Health Centre	Wednesday 10 a.m. (by appointment)	Lancashire County Council
Chiropodist	Civic Health Centre	Monday to Friday a.m. and p.m. Except Wednesday a.m. only (by appointment)	Lancashire County Council

CLINICS and TREATMENT CENTRES

NAME OF CLINIC	SITUATION	DAY AND TIME	BY WHOM PROVIDED
Cardiac Clinic for Expectant and Nursing Mothers	Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn.	1st Tuesday in every month 11 a.m. (by appointment)	Blackburn and District Hospital Management Committee.
Tuberculosis Dispensary	Royal Infirmary, Blackburn.	Tuesday 8.50 a.m. to 12 noon Wednesday 10 to 11.15 a.m. and 1.40 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Friday 8.50 a.m. to 12 noon.	Manchester Regional Hospital Board
Venereal Diseases	Royal Infirmary, Blackburn.	Males and Females Monday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Wednesday 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.	Manchester Regional Hospital Board
B.C.G. Vaccination Prevention of Tuberculosis	Civic Health Centre also Royal Infirmary Blackburn	By appointment By appointment	Lancashire County Council Lancashire County Council
Family Planning	Civic Health Centre	Wednesday Evening (by appointment)	Family Planning Association

CIVIC HEALTH CENTRE,
DARWEN.

August, 1972.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year ending 31st December, 1971.

The Census population was given as 28,875. There were 493 Births in the year giving a birth rate of 18.8 which is above the national average of 16.0. The number of deaths was 452 giving a death rate of 15.00 as opposed to the national average of 11.6. The infantile mortality rate was similar to the previous year being 22.00 (18.00 in England and Wales).

In regard to infectious diseases it is disappointing to note the number of cases of measles reported. This is probably due to the fact that the Measles Vaccination Campaign lost some of its impetus when one of the vaccines was withdrawn. However it is hoped that this year's campaign will result in a greater number of children receiving the vaccination.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis notified is similar to the previous year.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their interest shown and to Mr. H. Ramsbottom, Mr. P.H. Watson and all the staff of the Public Health Department for their work and support during the year.

Yours sincerely,

P.M. Sammon,

Medical Officer of Health.

PART 1

Statistics and Social Conditions

General Provisions of the Health Services

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

BY

P.M. SAMMON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SUMMARY of STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS, 1971

GENERAL
INFORMATION

Geographical Position	Lat 53°41' 25" N Lon. 2°28' 32" W
Elevation above sea level	500 ft. to over 800 ft.
Geological formation	Boulder clay and sand over coal measures
Area (in acres)	5,959
Population - Census, 1971	28,875
Population - Registrar General's Mid-year Estimate for 1971	29,110
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1971	10,908
Rateable Value	£943,148
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£8,830

The inhabitants are mainly of the artisan, or working class, and the principal industries are cotton weaving, paper making and staining, plastic and paint manufacturing and engineering trades.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

		<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	
LIVE BIRTHS	{ Legitimate	230	229	459	Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated Home Population mid 1971 Crude 16.9 Adjusted 18.8
	{ Illegitimate	21	13	34	
	{ Total	251	242	493	
STILL BIRTHS	{ Legitimate	3	4	7	Rate per 1,000 total Births 16.2
	{ Illegitimate	1	0	1	
	{ Total	4	4	8	
DEATHS	{	240	212	452	Death-rate per 1,000 estimated home population mid 1971 Crude 15.5 Adjusted 15.0
MORTALITY RATES PER 1,000 EST. POPULATION	{ Respiratory T.B.				0.07
	{ Malignant Neoplasms, etc				2.40
MATERNAL MORTALITY	{ Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion				Nil
	{ Mortality Rate per 1,000 total Births				Nil
		<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	
INFANTILE MORTALITY (Infants under the age of one year)	{ Legitimate Infants	7	3	10	
	{ Illegitimate Infants	0	1	1	
	{ Total Deaths	7	4	11	
Rate per 1,000 Live Births					24

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES

YEAR	DARWEN	ENGLAND AND WALES
1962	6.2	21.4
1963	30.7	20.9
1964	23.7	20.0
1965	10.5	19.0
1966	27.7	19.0
1967	19.0	19.0
1968	21.0	18.3
1969	18.0	18.0
1970	24.0	18.0
1971	22.0	18.0

OTHER INFANT DEATHS

TOTAL

RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION

Deaths from Measles (at all ages) ..	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (at all ages) ...	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years) ...	Nil	Nil

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	6
Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	12

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births	12
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PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 Total Live and Stillbirths	30
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BIRTHS. The number of live births registered during the year was 493, giving a birth-rate adjusted by comparison with the estimated home population of 18.8 per 1,000. The trend of this rate over the past ten years in comparison with the rate for England and Wales is shown in the following table:-

YEAR	DARWEN			RATE PER 1,000	ENGLAND AND WALES
	NUMBER OF BIRTHS				RATE PER 1,000
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL		
1962	232	253	485	17.7	18.0
1963	255	266	521	19.6	18.2
1964	258	249	507	19.3	18.4
1965	246	228	474	18.1	18.1
1966	269	237	506	19.4	17.7
1967	260	255	515	19.9	17.2
1968	245	222	467	18.0	16.9
1969	236	215	451	17.5	16.3
1970	239	229	468	18.3	16.0
1971	251	242	493	18.8	16.0

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS. The following table shows the number of illegitimate births and deaths for the past ten years:-

YEAR	NUMBER OF BIRTHS	RATE PER CENT OF LIVE BIRTHS	NUMBER OF DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR	DEATH RATE PER 1,000 ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS
1962	32	6.59	Nil	Nil
1963	35	6.71	1	28
1964	34	6.70	2	59
1965	32	6.75	Nil	Nil
1966	32	6.32	Nil	Nil
1967	49	9.51	3	61
1968	46	9.85	Nil	Nil
1969	41	9.09	Nil	Nil
1970	35	7.40	1	28
1971	34	6.89	1	29

STILLBIRTHS - The table below sets out details relating to stillbirths for the past ten years

YEAR	NUMBER OF STILLBIRTHS			RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS	RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION	
	LEGIT- MATE	ILLEG- ITIMATE	TOTAL		DARWEN	ENGLAND & WALES
1962	5	2	7	14.2	0.23	0.33
1963	10	3	13	24.3	0.44	0.32
1964	7	3	10	19.3	0.34	0.31
1965	13	1	14	28.7	0.48	0.29
1966	9	1	10	19.4	0.34	0.28
1967	5	1	6	12.0	0.20	0.26
1968	10	Nil	10	21.0	0.34	0.24
1969	4	Nil	4	9.0	0.14	0.21
1970	7	1	8	16.9	0.28	0.21
1971	9	Nil	9	18.2	0.30	0.20

DEATHS - The number of deaths of Darwen residents which occurred during the year was 452 representing an adjusted death-rate per 1,000 of the population of 15.0

The trend of the death-rate of the Borough for the past ten years is shown below in comparison with the rate for England and Wales:-

YEAR	DARWEN		ENGLAND AND WALES
	TOTAL DEATHS	RATE PER 1,000	RATE PER 1,000
1962	462	15.2	11.9
1963	451	15.3	12.2
1964	377	13.0	11.3
1965	417	13.9	11.5
1966	470	15.9	11.7
1967	417	14.4	11.2
1968	421	14.5	11.9
1969	405	14.1	11.9
1970	428	14.6	11.7
1971	452	15.0	11.6

The following is a copy of the Eighth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases supplied by the Registrar General of the causes and sex distribution of deaths of Darwin residents.

The information does not include non-civilian deaths:-

B LIST NUMBER	CAUSE TITLE	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
B. 1	Cholera	-	-	-
B. 2	Typhoid Fever	-	-	-
B. 3	Bacillary Dysentery and Amoebiasis ..	-	-	-
B. 4	Enteritis & Other Diarrhoeal Diseases	-	-	-
B. 5	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .	2	0	2
B. 6(pt)	Late effects of Respiratory Tuberculosis	-	-	-
B. 6 (rem)	Other Tuberculosis	-	-	-
B. 7	Plague	-	-	-
B. 8	Diphtheria	-	-	-
B. 9	Whooping Cough	-	-	-
B. 10	Streptococcal Sore Throat and Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
B. 11	Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
B. 12	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
B. 13	Smallpox	-	-	-
B. 14	Measles	-	-	-
B. 15	Typhus and Other Rickettsioses	-	-	-
B. 16	Malaria	-	-	-
B. 17	Syphilis and its Sequelae	-	-	-
B. 18	All Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-	-
B. 19 (1)	Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc	1	1	2
B. 19 (2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	1	2
B. 19 (3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	9	4	13
B. 19 (4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	3	6	9
B. 19 (5)	Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	1	-	1
B. 19 (6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung and Bronchus	11	2	13
B. 19 (7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	7	7
B. 19 (8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	2	2
B. 19 (9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	2	-	2
B. 19 (10)	Leukemia	1	2	3
B. 19 (11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc	11	4	15
B. 20	Benign Neoplasms & Neoplasms of Unspecified Nature	-	1	1
B. 21	Diabetes Mellitus	2	3	5
B. 22	Avitaminoses & Other Nutritional Deficiency	-	1	1
B. 46 (1)	Other Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases	1	-	1
B. 23	Anaemias	1	1	2
B. 46 (pt)	Other Diseases of Blood and Blood Forming Organs	-	-	-
B. 46 (3)	Mental Disorders	1	-	1

B. LIST NUMBER	CAUSE TITLE	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
B. 24	Meningitis	-	1	1
B. 46(4)	Multiple Sclerosis	-	-	-
B. 46(5)	Other Diseases of Nervous System .	1	1	2
B. 25	Active Rheumatic Fever	-	-	-
B. 26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ..	4	6	10
B. 27	Hypertensive Disease	4	5	9
B. 28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	73	54	127
B. 29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	6	12	18
B. 30	Cerebrovascular Disease	29	37	66
B. 46(6)	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	13	10	23
B. 31	Influenza	1	-	1
B. 32	Pneumonia	13	24	37
B. 33(1)	Bronchitis, Emphysema	20	7	27
B. 33(2)	Asthma	-	-	-
B. 46(7)	Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	2	3	5
B. 34	Peptic Ulcer	2	1	3
B. 35	Appendicitis	-	-	-
B. 36	Intestinal Obstruction & Hernia ..	-	2	2
B. 37	Cirrhosis of Liver	-	-	-
B. 46(8)	Other Diseases of the Digestive System	4	3	7
B. 38	Nephritis & Nephrosis	-	2	2
B. 39	Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	-	3
B. 46(9)	Other Diseases of the Genito- Urinary System	3	2	5
B. 46(11)	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	1	1
B. 40	Abortion	-	-	-
B. 41	Other Complications of Pregnancy, Childbirth and Puerperium	-	-	-
B. 46(10)	Diseases of the Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue	-	-	-
B. 42	Congenital Anomalies	-	1	1
B. 43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour & Other Anoxic & Hypoxic Conditions	3	1	4
B. 44	Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	2	-	2
B. 45	Symptoms & Ill-Defined Conditions	-	-	-
BE. 47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	1	4
BE. 48	All Other Accidents	5	3	8
BE. 49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	2	-	2
BE. 50	All Other External Causes	-	-	-
	TOTALS:-	240	212	452

A comprehensive range of services is maintained by the Local Health Authority, Lancashire County Council, including Ante-Natal Clinics, Child Welfare Clinics, Speech Therapy Clinics and other School Health Services - Medical and Dental.

Ambulance service is provided by Lancashire County Council.

Hospital services are provided by Manchester Regional Hospital Board, including general hospital facilities in Blackburn and a Maternity Home at Bull Hill.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Pathological and Bacteriological Department of the Blackburn and East Lancashire Royal Infirmary undertake the examination of pathological specimens for the Borough of Darwen, in accordance with the Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

The bacteriological examination of food, water and other non-personal specimens is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Preston, acting for the Medical Research Council of the Ministry of Health.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The numerical and age incidence of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, is shown in the following tables, which includes particulars of Darwin cases notified and accepted. The so-called minor infectious diseases, other than measles and whooping cough, are not included in the tables, as they are not notifiable in Darwin and, therefore, statistics as to their incidence are not reliable.

	MEASLES (EXCLUDING RUBELLA)		DYSENTERY		SCARLET FEVER		DIPH- THERIA		ACUTE MENINGITIS		ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	PARALYTIC		NON PARALYTIC	
Under 1 Year	8	9												
1 "	19	14	1		1									
2 Years	24	19		1										
3 "	22	25			1	1								
4 "	23	23				2								
5 - 9 "	83	70			5	4								
10 - 14 "	1	5				1								
15 - 24 "	3	1												
25 and over		1	1	1										
Age Unknown														
TOTAL	183	167	2	2	7	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS				LEPTRO- SPIROSIS		TYPHOID FEVER		FOOD POISONING	
	INFECTIVE		POST INFECTIOUS		M	F	M	F	M	F
	M	F	M	F						
Under 5 Years							1			1
5 - 14 "										
15 - 44 "							1	1	1	1
45 - 64 "							1	1		
65 and over										1
Age Unknown										
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	3

.. continued over ..

	TETANUS		INFECTIVE JAUNDICE	
	M	F	M	F
Under 1 Year				
1 Year				
2 - 4 Years				
5 - 9 "				
10 - 14 "				
15 - 19 "				
20 - 24 "			1	
25 - 34 "				
35 - 44 "				
45 - 54 "				
55 - 64 "				
65 - 74 "				
75 and over				
Age Unknown				
TOTAL	-	-	1	-

Under 3 Months

6 "	
9 "	1
1 Year	1
2 - 4 Years	4
5 - 9 "	4
10 - 14 "	
15 - 19 "	
20 - 24 "	
25 - 34 "	
35 - 44 "	
45 - 54 "	
55 - 64 "	
65 - 74	
75 and over	
Age Unknown	

TOTAL

WHOOPIG COUG	
M	F
	1
1	
4	3
4	
9	4

MALES	FEMALES
SMALLPOX	
-	-
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM	
-	-
ANTHRAX	
-	-
YELLOW FEVER	
-	-

CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL AND DEATHS FROM
INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	HOSPITAL		TOTAL DEATHS
	CASES REMOVED	DEATHS IN HOSPITAL	
DYSENTERY	1	-	-
MEASLES	2	-	-
FOOD POISONING	1	-	-
INFECTIVE JAUNDICE	1	-	-

The following table gives the comparative incidence of Infectious Diseases during the past five years:-

DISEASE	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	15	25	11	3	15
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever (excluding Paratyphoid)	-	-	-	-	5
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-
Measles (excluding Rubella) ...	355	46	481	100	350
Whooping Cough	84	12	-	6	13
(A) Acute Pneumonia (Primary and Influenza)	-	1	-	-	-
(A) Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	-	-	-
ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS:-					
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-
ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS:-					
Infective	-	-	-	-	-
Post Infectious	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	60	125	39	14	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-
(A) Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-
Leptospirosis	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Meningitis	-	-	-	1	-
Anthrax	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow Fever	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	17	4	4	4
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	-	9	34	5	1
TOTALS:-	516	236	569	133	392

(A) Notified to 30th September, 1968.

TUBERCULOSIS Cases of Tuberculosis were admitted to various Sanatoria under the Regional Hospital Board.

The Tuberculosis Scheme is administered by the Lancashire County Council and Regional Hospital Board, but the Area Tuberculosis Officer and Nurse maintain close co-operation with the Public Health Department, furnishing particulars about housing conditions and environment generally. The necessary disinfection is carried out by the Public Health Department.

The following table shows the age group incidence of new cases of tuberculosis notified, and the deaths from the disease during 1971.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 Year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54	3	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
55 - 64	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 - 74	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	5	1	1	2	2	-	-	-
	6		3		2		-	

The following table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis placed on the Register during the last ten years:-

YEAR	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	
1962	4	2	-	-	6
1963	11	2	-	-	13
1964	8	1	-	-	9
1965	3	2	-	2	7
1966	2	1	1	-	4
1967	3	2	-	2	7
1968	1	1	1	-	3
1969	2	-	1	-	3
1970	3	4	-	4	11
1971	5	1	1	2	9

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE
ACT, 1948 and 1951
Section 47.

No action taken under this Section.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Environmental Health Service for the year 1971.

The clearance of unfit houses proceeded steadily during the year in accordance with the Council's proposals made in December, 1966 and at the end of the year a total of 510 houses had been dealt with either by way of clearance or were in the process of clearance.

It is worthy of note that this will make a total of 1,472 houses dealt with by way of clearance since July, 1954.

Under present proposals a further 422 houses have still to be dealt with. These should be represented and cleared at the present rate of progress within the next 6 to 7 years.

With the advent of improvement grants and improvement areas it may well be that the present clearance programme apart from dealing with individual unfit houses, could be the last.

During the year the first General Improvement Area was declared.

This was the Ellenshaw General Improvement Area and although modest in size, a total of 97 houses in all, was destined to be the fore runner of an ambitious programme of eight further areas involving a total of 3,027 houses.

At the end of the year preparatory work had been commenced on these schemes.

Steady progress is being made with smoke control areas.

During the year Smoke Control Areas Nos. 6, 7 and 8 came into operation bringing a further 754 houses under smoke control.

The total number of houses in the town covered by Smoke Control Orders at the end of the year was 3,288.

The only change on the staff side during the year was the appointment of Mr. P.H. Banks as Student Public Health Inspector who commenced duties on the 2nd August.

In conclusion I would like to thank Dr. Sammon and Dr. Hutchinson for their help and also the staff and employees of the Department, particularly my Deputy Mr. P.H. Watson, for their keenness and co-operation and finally to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued support and encouragement.

I am Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

H. Ramsbottom,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The town is served by the Fylde Water Board. Water is supplied as follows.

- (a) The high level Sunnyhurst storage reservoir which was constructed in 1875. Situated over 900 ft. above sea level it has a capacity of 92 million gallons.
- (b) The lower level Earnsdale impounding reservoir constructed in 1863. Situated over 700 ft. above sea level it has a capacity of 100 million gallons.

When reservoir stocks are depleted to a level below the control line, the difference is made up by bringing water from the Fishmoor Treatment Plant at Blackburn.

Work completed in recent years to improve the Darwen supply system consists of:-

- (a) The construction at Sunnyhurst of a reinforced concrete clear water tank of 0.8 million gallons capacity, covered with an aluminium roof.
- (b) The construction of a similar type of tank at Earnsdale of 0.9 million gallons capacity.
- (c) The Earnsdale pump house, which is a brick built super-structure on a reinforced concrete sub-structure.
- (d) The renovation of two existing slow sand filters at Sunnyhurst.
- (e) The construction of a new building at Sunnyhurst to house lime dosing equipment, and a further building to house the ozone treatment plant, together with mess room accommodation.

Extension of Water Mains during 1970

Extension of Water Mains during the year was as follows

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| (a) to existing dwellings | 295 metres |
| (b) to new dwellings | 3.23 k.m. |
| (c) to other development | 355 metres |

Dwelling houses connected

(a)	New connections to existing houses	3
(b)	To new houses	149
		<hr/>
Total		152

Rainfall on the Watershed for 1971 was 1059.1 m.m. (approximately 42") which was 8" lower than the previous year.

No new sources of supply have been brought into use during the year.

The Board are responsible for Plumbo-Solvent action and precautions are taken for removal of organic matter and removal of pH value.

Typical analysis of sample water recently taken from the two reservoirs are as follows:-

	<u>Sunnyhurst</u> High Level Supply	<u>Earnsdale</u> Low Level Supply
Appearance	Clear & Bright	Clear & Bright
Colour (Hazen p.p.m. Pt)	7	5
Turbidity (p.p.m. Silica)	Nil	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil
Taste	Normal	Normal
Reaction pH Value	6.8	8.0
Electrical Conductivity umho/cc	110	108
p.p.m.		
Residual Chlorine	0.10	0.20
Free & Saline Ammonia as N ₂	0.13	0.09
Albuminoid Ammonia as N ₂	0.20	0.04
Nitrous Nitrogen as N ₂	0.001	0.003
Nitric Nitrogen as N ₂	0.29	0.20
Oxygen absorbed 4 hrs @ 27°C	0.74	0.55
Free Acidity as CO ₂	-	-
Carbonate Hardness as CaCO ₃	9	10
Total Hardness as CaCO ₃	39	36
Non-Carbonate Hardness as CaCO ₃	30	26
Excess Alkalinity as Na ₂ CO ₃	Nil	Nil
Calcium as CaCO ₃	28	28
Magnesium as CaCO ₃	11	8
Total Solids dried at 180°C	84	90
Chloride as Cl	13	12
Sulphate as SO ₄	30	28
Lead as Pb	- less than 0.05 -	-
Manganese as Mn	0.04	0.02
Copper as Cu	-	-
Iron as Fe	0.10	0.08
Fluoride as F	- less than 0.10 -	-

During the year the Fylde Water Board took a total of 106 samples from the reservoirs.

78 examinations of the water supply were carried out by the Water Board from the taps of domestic users during the year.

In addition occasional samples are taken by the Health Department after complaints.

The approximate number of dwelling houses supplied direct with public water is 10,908.

In an effort to encourage owners of property to install separate service pipes where the pressure is low, the Corporation and the Fylde Water Board pay half the cost of the installation.

PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

There are still a number of dwellings in the town which because of their situation have to rely on private water supplies and these are sampled at regular intervals. Users are advised on precautionary measures while steps are being taken for permanent purification. In addition every effort is made to change these private supplies to the public supply where practicable.

CORPORATION

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER

	TOTAL	SATISFACTORY	UNSATISFACTORY
Mains supply	1	1	Nil
Private supply	5	3	2

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER

	TOTAL	SATISFACTORY	UNSATISFACTORY
Mains supply	26	23	3
Private supply	23	10	13

The unsatisfactory chemical examinations were due to soft water having a residual plumbo solvent action in the supply pipes.

FYLDE WATER BOARD

EXAMINATION OF WATER FROM DOMESTIC USERS

TOTAL	SATISFACTORY	UNSATISFACTORY
78	78	Nil

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER

	TOTAL	SATISFACTORY	UNSATISFACTORY
Reservoirs	106	106	Nil

EXAMINATION OF WATER FROM THE PUBLIC BATHS

	TOTAL	SATISFACTORY	UNSATISFACTORY
	25	20	5

The method of treatment is continuous filtration with a turnover period of 4 hours.

The unsatisfactory samples were due to temporary faults in the treatment of the water which were quickly rectified.

PRIVATE SWIMMING BATHS

In June a small private swimming school was opened in the Borough mainly for the tutoring of young children.

These premises are well conducted and regular sampling of the water is undertaken by the proprietors twice daily.

By arrangement with the owner of the baths two samples were taken by the Corporation during the year. Both were satisfactory.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

During the year a further 15 waste water closets were converted to the fresh water system. The total now remaining is 439.

It is interesting to note that in 1949, 18% of premises in the Borough used waste water closets and the figure is now approximately 4%.

Apart from farms, pail closets total 28 in all, of which 5 are for country cottages the rest being used in the Parks and isolated sites.

The number of septic tanks is now 32.

The table below gives the closet accommodation in the Borough:

Pails	28
Water Closets	14,668
Waste Water Closets	439
Total	15,135

Conversions and Installations during 1971 :-

New Water Closets fixed	149
Waste Water Closets converted to Water Closets	15
Pail Closets converted to Water Closets	Nil
Waste Water Closets dismantled	4
Water Closets dismantled	147

RIVERS AND STREAMS

During the year there has been a steady reduction in the pollution of the River Darwen.

Regular visits were made by Inspectors of the Lancashire River Authority Pollution Prevention Department and samples taken.

The improvement has been due to the diversion of some trade effluent to the sewer and some improvement to the Hoddlesden sewage system. The upper reaches of the river i.e. from Hollins Paper Mill towards the source which covers most of the town are much improved.

The main sources of pollution are now during heavy rain when some sewer storm overflows are discharged into the river.

A reduction in the dumping of unwanted refuse would bring about a further improvement.

CLEAN AIR

The implementation of smoke control was continued although in the early part of the year due to difficulties caused by the shortage of solid smokeless fuel existing smoke control orders were temporarily suspended.

Fortunately the solid smokeless fuel position improved and the suspension of the orders was removed on the 30th April.

During the year Smoke Control Areas Nos. 6, 7 and 8 came into operation bringing a further 754 houses under smoke control.

In the meantime inspections were proceeding on the No. 9 Area involving a total of 397 houses in the Earnsdale Area which was scheduled to come into operation in the late summer of 1972.

This will be followed by a further area in the Harwood Street/
Avondale Road Area.

At the present rate of progress an important milestone in the Clean Air programme should be reached within the next two years and that is when the whole of the town to the west of the main road will then be under smoke control.

Smoke Control Area	Date of Operation	Acreage	Private Dwellings	Commerical Premises	Industrial Premises	Other
1 (1962)	1/10/63	394	535	3	6	10
2 (1966)	1/7/67	121	425	3	4	30
3 (1967)	1/8/68	206	416	2	6	27
3a (1967)	1/10/68	12	259	10	7	38
4 (1969)	31/10/69	253	432	9	8	Nil
5 (1969)	1/7/70	90	267	6	2	3
6 (1970)	1/7/71	90.	150	2	Nil	1
7 (1970)	1/7/71	5.96	290	3	2	1
8 (1970)	1/11/71	25.71	314	2	4	1

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Routine inspections and registration of new premises continue under the provisions of the Act which is now firmly established in the daily work of the Office.

Regular visits ensure that infringements are reduced to the minimum and when discovered are mainly of a minor nature and are soon remedied.

The number of premises registered was the same as the previous year.

No prosecutions were instituted during the year.

One accident was reported.

A total of 178 official visits were made throughout the year which is more than the previous year and in many cases, apart from offices, most premises are kept under surveillance by visits for other matters for example during visits concerning the Food Hygiene Regulations and other legislation.

It has been suggested that it may be possible that some accidents which occur are not reported and registered premises were reminded during the year of their obligations under the Act.

In addition the publication by the Department of Employment and Productivity of the booklet "The Safe Use of Food Slicing Machines" provided excellent, illustrated, easy to digest, instruction and as no accidents were notified to the Authority or discovered by the

District Inspectors which were attributable to food slicing machines it can be said that the booklet has had some impact.

No problems have been encountered regarding the mechanical handling of goods in warehouses and larger stores or in the use of lifts and hoists.

Class of Premises	No. of Premises Registered	No. of Persons Employed
Offices	43	215
Retail Shops	80	370
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	4	20
Catering Establishments and Canteens	18	112
Fuel Storage Depots	Nil	Nil
	<hr/> 145	<hr/> 717

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	176	245	Nil	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	16	22	Nil	Nil
Total:-	182	267	Nil	Nil

PART V111 of the Act - Outwork

There were no out-workers registered during the year within the Borough.

In all a total of 267 visits were made to Factories throughout the year and the defects found mainly in connection with the cleanliness of sanitary conveniences were quickly remedied and did not require official action.

No prosecutions were instituted during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

The only offensive trade left in Darwen is a local fat melter and refinery.

MUNICIPAL HOSTEL

This building was built in 1897 as a model lodging house for casual workers and others coming into the town. It is now a permanent hostel providing communal living accommodation for nearly 150 occupants.

The average daily number of lodgers for the year was:

Males	79.76
Females	7.75

250 visits were made to the Hostel throughout the year.

Average daily number of lodgers over the past five years are as follows

<u>Year</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1970	78.58	7.55
1969	84.20	10.90
1968	97.21	13.01
1967	94.11	12.08
1966	104.84	12.47

The average number of lodgers showed a slight increase over the previous year and this together with the higher charges imposed in October of last year enabled the Hostel to show a slight profit on the years working.

RODENT CONTROL

It is gratifying to report that as in previous years, no major rat problem threatens the well being of the Borough and its residents. Regular surveys and treatment in the older areas of town which have been rat-prone in the past and the co-operation and awareness of the townsfolk themselves in the promptness with which sightings are reported all help to keep rodents under control.

As everyman's hand is raised against the rat it is easy to become complacent and imagine that no problem exists. This is not the case in Darwen. The face of the town is changing and with it the plans and methods used in our campaign to keep the rat under control.

It has been observed during the past twelve months that surface infestation fluctuates according to the season of the year. During the late spring and summer months, new housing estates which encroach into the surrounding country side for a short time disturb the balance of nature, attract the hidden rat population, small though it may be, from the adjoining hedges, ditches and farmland. Little problem is experienced in exterminating these small rodent pockets as anti-coagulant poisons are still effective in the fight against rats in the Borough. It is during the Autumn and winter months when older Darwen suffers the itinerant rat which can often appear as a result of sewer treatments. Drainage faults are the usual cause of infestation and because in some areas sewerage systems remain a subteranean mystery, I would like to see a reappraisal of the Corporation's sewer plans and a serious effort made to provide means of access on all foul sewers in the area. The cost in time and money would be great but the advantages to be gained would be ample reward for the effort involved.

The Domestic mouse still proves troublesome in many premises and patience, persistence, allied to low-cunning have to be exercised in exterminating this pest. The presence of mice in all premises caused much concern to the Department because of the menace to public health and the cost to commerce. For years, anti-coagulant poisons have been ineffective in mouse control in Darwen as in many other areas, but alphachloralose still performs a useful service and occasionally it is found necessary to use more toxic poisons such as arsenic.

The service of disinfestation remains free to private house holders but moderate charges have to be made to business premises to offset costs of this important municipal function.

PEST CONTROL

Cockroaches continue to flourish often requiring specialist treatment where infestation is reported. In some cases it is necessary to advise structural repairs to remove the site of infestation of these insects and in a number of properties in the past, fireplaces have been removed and floors lifted to reach the haunts of the insects.

A small number of infestations of fleas, wasps, bluebottles and silver fish have been dealt with during the year and the first case of crickets for years came to our notice during December last.

New purpose built flats which are centrally heated by ducted air were the subject of complaint and these crickets were eventually recovered from the ducting which gave relief to the nerves and ears of the residents.

Occasional swarms of bees gave cause for concern because local bees have the unhappy knack of settling in awkward places, however, it has not been necessary to destroy any bees for some long time because of the kind administrations of our local apiarists.

One or two complaints of body lice have been dealt with during the year and a small self contained bathroom is available at the Civic Health Centre which can cater for scabies and other parasitic skin affections. I am grateful to the Medical Staff and Health Visitors for their advice and attention in this field.

NO. OF PREMISES INSPECTED	NO. OF PREMISES FOUND INFESTED	NO. OF TREATMENTS CARRIED OUT	
		FULL	TEST
464	112	112	280

SEWER TREATMENTS

DATE	NO. OF MANHOLES TREATED
April	130
October	200

LICENSED PREMISES

The steady increase in the preparation of snacks and light meals in licensed premises continues and Breweries and licensees are co-operating well in providing adequate facilities.

Modernisation of licensed premises has proceeded steadily during the year and in particular with the provision of internal sanitary accommodation.

The last few years has shown rapid progress in this field and now relatively few licensed Public Houses in Darwen have not got these modern facilities.

39 inspections and 129 reinspections were made throughout the year.

CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT

The clearance of derelict and neglected sites.

The reduction of the number of private water supplies and the

purification of the remainder.

Derelict and neglected sites still abound and encourage the dumping of rubbish and old vehicles. Weeds tend to flourish, although these are now being systematically reduced and it is hoped that the measures now being taken will reduce the annual weed growth to a minimum.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Number of houses visited	1,300
Number of inspections of factories and workplaces	267
Number of inspections of bakehouses	50
Number of inspections of refuse tips	26
Complaints received and investigated	289
Number of re-inspections made	6,766
Visits paid to houses (re cases of infectious diseases) .	104
Number of smoke observations taken	24
Number of drains tested	188
Total number of defects discovered	342
Informal notices served	342
Statutory notices served	48
Number of nuisances abated, including outstanding nuisances from previous year	364

LIST OF NUISANCES DISCOVERED

Defective drains	122
Choked and defective sewers	33
Defective soil pipes and water closets	3
Defective downspouts, gutters, roofs and external walls .	31
Defective plastering	20
Defective roofs and damp walls	40
Dirty houses and premises	0
Dirty and dilapidated closet buildings	0
Accummulations of refuse	1
Defective fire-ranges	0
Choked waste water closets	8
Choked water closets	7
Insanitary yards	2
Defective internal floors	2
Insufficient ventilation	0
Burst water pipes	3
Miscellaneous nuisances	70

H O U S I N G

The table below gives particulars of action taken specifically under the provisions of the Housing Acts in contradistinction to action under the Public Health Acts.

STATISTICS

Number of new houses and flats erected during the year:

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)	149
(i) By Local Authority	72
(ii) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	75
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:-	
(i) By the Local Authority (included under (a)(i) above)	Nil
(ii) By other bodies (included under (a)(iii) above)	Nil

Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year:

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	344
(2) Number of inspections made for both purposes	431
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	55
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	0

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	4
---	---

Action under statutory powers during the year.

Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957.

(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs:-	
Preliminary	2
Statutory	2
(b) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
By owners	2
By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

Proceedings under Sections 16 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1957.

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in ownership of Local Authority dealt with in accordance with Section 3(3A) of the Housing Subsidies Act, 1956, as directed in Appendix 11 of Circular 33/56 with a view to demolition	0
(iii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	9
(iv) Number of houses demolished where action has been taken under Section 53 of the Over Darwen Improvement Act, 1879.	7

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959 and HOUSING ACTS, 1961 and 1964. STANDARD GRANTS.

Applications submitted to local authority for improvement to (a) full standard	313
(b) reduced standard	Nil
Total applications approved by local authority for improvement to (a) full standard	313
(b) reduced standard	Nil
Work completed	209

HOUSING ACTS, 1969

Improvement Grants

Action during year:	
(i) Submitted by private individuals to Local Authority	24
(ii) Approved by Local Authority	22

OVERCROWDING

Overcrowding as to mixed sexes in families, not involving legal overcrowding occurs from time to time, but with the help of the Housing Department these cases are quickly attended to.

CLEARANCE AREAS

Clearance is continuing in accordance with the Clearance programme approved by the Council in December, 1966.

At the end of the year most premises in the Ashton Street No. 1 area had been demolished and the Ellenshaw No. 1 area which had been held up for some eight months was confirmed in September following a public enquiry in February.

A delay such as this is particularly frustrating as it was hoped that the Housing Act, 1969 would speed up clearance work and lead to fewer objections and subsequent delays through Public Enquiries.

It is doubly frustrating when new housing is geared to be ready to rehouse occupants of areas around the estimated time of confirmation of the Orders.

In these days when vandalism is on such a large scale it is not possible to keep houses unoccupied for any length of time nor, of course for economic

reasons, can the Corporation delay collection of rents from new properties.

However it was expected that the premises in the Ellenshaw area would be acquired and demolished early in 1972 so that building of new houses could start in the same area.

Fifteen premises in a third area the Brunswick Street Area were also demolished following the confirmation of a Compulsory Purchase Order.

In October a further Compulsory Purchase Order 23 houses in all, in the Exchange Street area, was resolved by the Council and at the end of the year was awaiting submission to the Department of the Environment for confirmation.

Work was already proceeding on the inspections of the further areas, the Ellenshaw No. 2 area comprising 111 houses and the Ashton Street No. 2 area which contained 55 houses and these areas were expected to be represented to the Health Committee early in the new year.

Premises dealt with or in progress by way of Clearance
since December, 1966 at 31st December, 1971

Ashton Street	126	Confirmed Compulsory Purchase Order. Premises demolished.
Ellenshaw No. 1	72	Confirmed Compulsory Purchase Order
Exchange Street (45 - 91)	23	Submitted to Committee for approval for Compulsory Purchase Order, September, 1971.
Ellenshaw No. 2	111	To be submitted to Health Committee early 1972
Ashton Street No. 2	55	To be submitted to Health Committee early 1972
Brunswick Street	15	Confirmed Compulsory Purchase Order
Malta Street	25	Acquired by agreement and demolished
Hannah Street	13	Acquired by agreement and demolished
Bolton Road	24	Acquired by agreement and demolished
Gregson Street	4	Acquired by agreement and demolished
Kay Street	19	Acquired by agreement and demolished
Dover Street	7	Acquired by agreement and demolished
Charles Street	6	Acquired by agreement and demolished
Corporation Street	4	Acquired by agreement and demolished
Chapels Brow	4	Acquired by agreement and demolished
Howarth Street	2	Acquired by agreement and demolished

Two premises were officially closed and 141 premises were demolished during the year.

It is interesting to note that since 1947, 1,258 properties have been demolished.

IMPROVEMENT AREAS

As a result of the Anyon Street Housing Development (Rosegate) and the proposed Ellenshaw Redevelopment Area the Health Committee considered that the older houses between and adjacent i.e. Garnett Street/Norris Street and Sudellside Street/Anyon Street should be recommended as the first area to be surveyed with a view to being the Borough's first General Improvement Area under the Government Grant Scheme "Old Houses into New Homes".

Accordingly this area, although modest in size comprising some 97 houses, was inspected and was followed by a public meeting of the residents in Sudell Road School on the 2nd September when the residents voted unanimously in favour of the area being declared a General Improvement Area.

This was followed by a resolution made at the Health and Housing Committee held on the 4th October publically declaring the area to be a General Improvement Area.

Following an offer by the National Building Agency to conduct a survey into the feasibility of General Area Improvement related to the older housing stock in Darwen a report prepared by the National Building Agency was submitted to the November meeting of the Health and Housing Committee at which it was decided to accept the offer of the National Building Agency and take full advantage of the 75% grant and implement schemes for General Improvement Areas for approximately 2,600 dwellings, later amended to 3,027, in eight different areas to be known as

Kay Street General Improvement Area	562
Snape Street General Improvement Area	614
Melita Street General Improvement Area	307
Newton Street General Improvement Area	413
Belgrave Road General Improvement Area	235
Maria Street General Improvement Area	326
Queen Street General Improvement Area	387
Bedford Street General Improvement Area	193

This decision when fully implemented should lead to a tremendous improvement in the housing conditions of very large numbers of people living in older houses in the town.

In addition to money spent on improvements on the houses themselves, thousands of pounds will also be spent on improving the environmental surroundings in the declared areas.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Three premises are used for multiple occupation.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The Local Authority is a designated Food and Drugs Authority.

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963

The following licences have been issued under these Regulations.

Untreated Milk	16
Pasteurised Milk	26
Sterilised Milk	78
Ultra Heat Treated Milk ...	18
<hr/>	
Total	138

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

Total No. of samples submitted 136	Results		
	Positive	Negative	No Result
	Nil	70	66
Tuberculosis	9	121	6
Brucellosis Ring Test	8	3	124
Brucellosis Culture Test	Nil	48	88
Brucellosis Biological Test			

The positive culture cases of Brucellosis were followed-up at the farms concerned, and as a result of individual sampling of the herds, the animals secreting positive Brucella organisms were isolated and later slaughtered.

Samples of Milk for Statutory Tests

	No. of Samples	Results		
		Satisfactory	Unsatis- factory	Void Samples
Raw Milk:				
Methylene Blue Test	135	105	21	9
Heat Treated Milk:				
Methylene Blue Test	1	1	Nil	Nil
Phosphatase Test				
Turbidity Test	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Colony Count Test	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The twenty-one samples unsatisfactorily reported on were passed on for appropriate action to the Divisional Milk Officer.

Food Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Type of Business	Number Registered at end of year	Number of Inspection of registered premises during year
Preserved Food Manufacturers	18	53
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1	2
Ice Cream Retailers	128	89

Action taken under the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1959 and 1963.

Routine inspections of ice cream manufacturers was carried out. Twelve samples of ice cream were taken and two were reported as unsatisfactory.

No. of Samples	Description	Formal	Informal
36	Milk	1	35
1	Cream		1
1	Instant non-fat milk		1
3	Cheese spread		3
1	Buttered tea-cake		1
1	Rice pudding with cream		1
1	Blackcurrant health drink		1
1	Shandy		1
1	Bovril		1
1	Margarine		1
1	Energy Tonic		1
1	Cough Medicine		1
2	Beer making packs		2
1	Vitaminised malt drink		1
1	Lager		1
1	Flavoured Sherbo		1
1	Blackcurrant Lolly		1
1	White Mice sweet		1
1	Meat Pie		1
1	Pork Sausage		1
1	Beef Sausage		1
1	Mushrooms in brine		1
1	Mango Pickle		1
1	Slimmers biscuit		1
1	Strawberry cream desert		1
1	Vegetable soup mix		1
1	Scotch whisky	1	
1	Brandy	1	
1	Vodka	1	
1	Cyprus cream berry		1

All were reported genuine with the exception of:

Five samples of milk reported low in solids not fat.

One sample of sausage contained preservative without the required declaration that preservative was present.

One sample of tinned milk was contaminated by odour.

One sample of pork sausage was contaminated by a yeast like fungus.

One sample of Beer making ingredients was incorrectly labelled.

One sample of cheese spread contained calcium phosphate crystals causing the cheese to have a gritty taste.

Legal proceedings taken with regard to offences in the preparation, storage, handling or sale of food.

- (1) Complaint of Brown loaf containing mouse droppings - Defendants fined £10 with £10.50 advocates fees.

Other action taken following complaints regarding food

- (1) Complaint of unsound condition of contents of a can of chopped pork and ham. Contents had deteriorated due to a fault in the can seam.
- (2) Complaint of 'odour' from contents of instant non-fat milk. Investigations in a neighbouring authority revealed that there had been a recent accidental spillage of paraffin at the Wholesalers premises. Analysis revealed odour to be of a paraffin nature and it was therefore concluded that the paraffin vapour had penetrated through the lid and internal diaphragm of the tin. The remaining stock was withdrawn from sale.
- (3) Complaint of unsound contents of a tin of "Ham Cured Shoulder". Decomposition was the result of a defect in curing or packing.
- (4) Complaint of mouldy pie. Mould had formed due to inadequate stock control on the part of the retailer.
- (5) Packet of Crisps containing live cockroach. Bag observed to be slightly damaged and therefore point of entry could not be determined. Investigations revealed manufacturers premises to be free from infestation.
- (6) Staining of slices of loaf. Stains found to consists of vegetable oil from bakery machinery.
- (7) Two cases of mouldy bread. Investigations revealed mould due to lack of proper stock control by delivery salesman.
- (8) Mouldy Brown loaf. Found to be due to adverse storage conditions and improper stock rotation.
- (9) Silver fish in lemonade shandy. Laboratory tests revealed silver fish had been pasteurised and was therefore in the shandy during processing.

- (10) Mouldy Pork Skinless Sausage. Due to 'carrying over' of stock by van salesman.
- (11) Loaf containing bird feathers. Investigations revealed feathers had fallen into the stored flour prior to baking. An air vent to the flour storage bin was unprotected.
- (12) Cheese spread containing gritty particles. Particles identified as crystals of calcium phosphate amounting to 1.2% of the cheese spread. Formed due to the interaction of emulsifying salts and the calcium in the cheese. The crystals were not harmful to health.
- (13) Moth in packet of Irish Mallow biscuits. Insect identified as Mediterranean Flour Moth (*Ephesia Kuhniella*) and had gained entry during manufacture.
- (14) Complaint of foreign body in tin of Hamburgers with Onions and Gravy. Complainant suspected a rodents paw - examination revealed it to be a portion of Bovine tongue.
- (15) Complaint of sarsaparilla sweets containing foreign matter. Foreign matter found to consist of liquorice.
- (16) Complaint of Mouldy Apple Roly Poly. The shelf life had been exceeded.
- (17) Foreign body in bottle of milk. Found to be small piece of cardboard.
- (18) Meat and Potato pie containing foreign body. Foreign body found to be a small rivet and had clearly gained access to the potato during manufacture.

In all these cases the firms concerned were formally warned by letter to take every care to prevent a recurrence.

NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1971

Type of Business	Number
General grocers and provision dealers	82
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game etc.)	27
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game etc.)	3
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe etc.)	35
Bakers and/or confectioners	35
Fried fish shops	25
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream etc.	42
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments	99
Basement Bakehouses	1
Others	Nil

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

Food premises in general maintain a high standard and the regular visits of the Department's Inspectors help to remind food handlers of the importance of the Regulations.

Minor infringements were quickly remedied by informal action and no prosecutions were instituted during the year.

Total of 671 inspections with 757 re-inspections were carried out throughout the year.

UN SOUND FOOD

Thirty-nine visits were made regarding the certification of food not fit for human consumption. These were in the main due to voluntary surrender by shopkeepers and warehouses, but in some cases were detected during routine inspections or as a result of complaints.

Most of the foods surrendered during the year came from two sources, namely the contents of defrosted refrigerators or the greengrocery trade.

The Supermarkets which carry large stocks of frozen foods are vulnerable should an electrical failure occur which allows their deep freezers to defrost. The following foods were surrendered under such circumstances.

- (a) Over 3 cwt. of frozen vegetables.
- (b) Over $3\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of frozen fish or fish products.
- (c) Over 4 cwt of frozen meat and meat products.
- (d) An assortment of milk products and cream products including ice-cream, assorted cream cakes, trifles etc.

A small quantity of fresh fruit and vegetables were surrendered from a wholesale greengrocer.

Flour and bread from a bakehouse was condemned and surrendered by the baker who was subsequently prosecuted for offences under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Thirty-eight frozen chickens were discovered in the deep freeze of a local barbeque which were unsound. They were surrendered before seizure could take place.

NUISANCE FROM NOISE

Factory noise complaints during the year were minimal due to vigilance by the Inspectorate and co-operation from industrial management.

The principal cause for complaint has been against our canine "friends" which inconsiderately howl and bark at times during the hours of darkness because either, with the tendency towards security of premises, the guard dog is merely doing its job or, in many cases, the owner of the animal does not provide the attention necessary to the well being of his pet, resulting in annoyance to neighbours from the dog's howls of protest.

Action can be taken locally under local byelaws providing three independent householders see fit to complain, should the owner of the animal prove insensitive to informal complaint.

Most of the domestic noise nuisances, such as the tuning of petrol engines in back yards, the invariable noise created by Do-it-Yourself enthusiasts, and the use of quiet roads by seventeen year old youths on their first motor cycles would not occur if a little thought for and consideration of neighbours, especially elderly and chronically sick people, took place.

TIPS

Conditions at private tips are showing a big improvement although the occasional tip tends to give trouble from time to time mainly from nuisance from burning. Constant surveillance and the advent of new planning conditions however keeps tip nuisances down to the minimum.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND FOOD POISONING

A total of 114 visits were made during the year regarding the investigation of infectious diseases.

In January three cases of suspected Typhoid Fever, later confirmed were removed to hospital.

Routine samples taken from the families, friends and contacts revealed two carriers who were also removed to hospital.

Four cases of Food Poisoning were also reported during the year. These were later confirmed as 2 cases of Salmonella Typhi-murium, 1 case of Salmonella Enteritidis and 1 case of Salmonella Panama.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT, 1950. (Movement of Animals)

The duties under this section of the Act are carried out by the Lancashire County Council who issue all the necessary licences controlling the movement of animals.

HAIRDRESSING ESTABLISHMENTS

Ladies hairdressing continues to be a popular business. There are

65 hairdressing premises registered under the provisions of the Darwen Corporation Act, 1948.

Premises are inspected prior to opening and work done to comply with the Regulations.

Re-inspections are carried out from time to time but very little trouble is experienced with this type of business after the initial alterations are carried out.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

One premises is licensed under this Act. This was satisfactorily conducted throughout the year.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

Three premises are licensed under the provisions of this Act. All were satisfactorily maintained during the year for the welfare of animals.

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1964

One establishment was licensed under this Act. Premises are only licensed after the receipt of a satisfactory veterinary report.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 and 1951

No action was necessary during the year under Section 17 of the 1948 Act.

Two bodies were buried under the provisions of Section 50 of the 1948 Act, which requires the Local Authority to dispose of the bodies of persons who have died in its area if it appears no suitable funeral arrangements would otherwise be made.

MORTUARY

Fifty-three bodies were received at the Mortuary during the year and post-mortem examinations were carried out on 52 of them.

